

# Access

A publication of KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

## Research and Grants

The National Institutes of Health awarded a \$1,045,701 grant to Kennesaw State University to create M.S.-to-Ph.D. bridges between KSU and three University System of Georgia partner institutions. The project, led by **Jonathan McMurry**, associate dean of research for the College of Science and Mathematics and associate professor of chemistry, will recruit, train, and launch underrepresented and economically disadvantaged students in the master's programs in integrative biology and chemical sciences to successful doctoral studies.

**Neporcha Cone**, associate professor of science education, received a \$296,395 grant from the National Science Foundation for a two-year project that will study an exploratory elementary teacher development model that addresses the nation's call for the effective preparation of science teachers for culturally and linguistically diverse classrooms.

**Associate Professor of Chemistry Daniela Tapu** received a \$247,656 three-year grant from the NSF for an integrated research and education program designed to engage undergraduate and graduate students in hypothesis-driven research projects. The research component will challenge conventional models of chemical bonding and structure by exploring the relationship between molecular architecture, electronic structure, and chemical reactivity of several new compounds.

The Halle Foundation has renewed support of the "German 4 GA" project, a four-way collaboration between KSU, the University of Paderborn in Germany (UPB), select German programs in Georgia, and The Halle Foundation, led by **Sabine Smith**, professor of German. The Halle Foundation has granted \$155,000 over three years to support collaborative exchanges of KSU and UPB faculty and students; year-round community engagement programming; an annual lecture tour; poetry contest, and German Studies Undergraduate Scholars' Symposium.

**Tamara Powell**, director of distance education and associate professor of English, and **Lei Li**, associate professor of information technology, received \$30,000 Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation Grants from the Board of Regents. Powell and her team will transform two currently existing electronic texts into a free, high-quality, interactive, multimedia textbook, while Li and her team will use the funds as part of a department-wide effort to transform all learning materials used in four database-related courses.

## Dr. Betty L. Siegel Student Recreation and Activities Center opens



Kennesaw State President Emeritus Betty L. Siegel speaks at the opening of the Dr. Betty L. Siegel Student Recreation and Activities Center.

By **Robert S. Godlewski**  
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Kennesaw State University opened the Dr. Betty L. Siegel Student Recreation and Activities Center, an energy-efficient student recreation center named in honor of the University's second and longest-serving president in Kennesaw State's 50-year history. A large crowd of students, faculty, staff and

University supporters attended a ceremonial ribbon cutting on Sept. 10, which featured comments from Kennesaw State President Daniel S. Papp, Siegel and members of her family. Student guides conducted tours of the bi-level facility and demonstrated the latest, state-of-the-art exercise and fitness equipment. "Today's formal dedication of the Dr. Betty L. Siegel Student Recreation and Activities Center marks a truly momentous occasion in

the campus life of Kennesaw State," said Papp. "By naming this beautiful building in Dr. Siegel's honor, we pay homage to Kennesaw State's president emeritus, her tremendous legacy and her student-first philosophy."

Completed this summer, the Siegel Center is more than three times the size of the original student recreation building, which was built in 1967. During the recent construction, some 127,217 square feet of new space was added and another 47,175 square feet was renovated.

Based on the results of student surveys conducted by Kennesaw State's Department of Sports and Recreation, the new facility includes two pools — an indoor competition swimming pool and an outdoor leisure swimming pool — one outdoor basketball court and four indoor courts, a multi-sport court, eight tennis courts, a weight and fitness area, a rock climbing tower, an indoor track and other amenities such as sand volleyball and racquetball courts.

"This new building is truly impressive; located in the heart of the campus, it is a world-class facility, a gathering place where students can come to enjoy a variety of sports, recreational, and school activities," said Siegel. "I am honored to have it bear my name, and I'm deeply grateful to all of you for making this happen."

## Kennesaw State welcomes football program in inaugural season

By **Scott Wiltsee**  
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The Kennesaw State University community redefined what Saturdays in the fall are all about when Owls Football arrived on campus for the first time.

On Sept. 12, the area around Fifth Third Bank Stadium was transformed as fans by the thousands celebrated KSU's opening home game against Edward Waters College. By game time, the excitement reached a fever pitch and carried the momentum onto the field as the Owls won easily, 58-7.

"That crowd was phenomenal," said Kennesaw State football head coach Brian Bohannon. "The student section, the packed house was phenomenal. That atmosphere out there today was unbelievable."

Early in the afternoon, hundreds of students, alumni and fans lined up next to the stadium for the first Owl Walk, as Kennesaw State players and coaches marched into the locker room for the first time.

As game time approached inside the stadium, the 9,506 fans who made it inside



The Kennesaw State football team storms the field during its first home game on Sept. 12.

were clearly ready for some football, as the full student section chanted "K-S-U" and the marching band revved up the excitement. The players emerged onto

the field through a cloud of smoke, sending the crowd into a frenzy. By the time two F-16 Fighting Falcons soared overhead, the stadium was ecstatic. >>Continue on page 3

## Kennesaw State opens Education Building expansion



David Caselli

Cutting the ceremonial ribbon for the opening of the Bagwell College of Education expansion are, from left, Dean Arlinda Eaton, President Daniel S. Papp, Trustee Tommy Bagwell, and Rep. Ed Setzler.

By Jennifer Hafer  
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When students in Kennesaw State University's Bagwell College of Education returned to campus, it was to a new \$20.3 million Education Building addition designed to maximize student-centered learning in the 21st century.

Faculty, staff, government officials and friends of the college celebrated the opening of the new 78,756-square-foot building with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting, which featured comments from Kennesaw State President Daniel S. Papp, Bagwell Dean Arlinda Eaton, state Rep. Ed Setzler and KSU Trustee Tommy Bagwell, CEO of American Proteins Inc.

The new addition will increase the college's capacity to meet the projected need for teachers and school administrators in Georgia and create the space for expanded course offerings and programs. The building consists of classrooms, computer labs, seminar rooms, student study areas, conference rooms, the Center for Literacy and Learning, department suites and the dean's

suite. It also will serve as the home to new centers for teaching, research and scholarship and outreach; and will improve efficiency by including every department, center and service unit of the Bagwell College in one building, creating a more integrated and collaborative environment for students, faculty and staff.

"As we continue to shape the 'New U' that is Kennesaw State University, the Education Building addition and the learning that goes on inside will help us advance our mission of becoming a world-class institution," Papp said. "We have long known aspiring teachers were getting a top-notch education in the Bagwell College; now they'll be receiving that high-quality education in a first-class facility."

Over the last three years, the Bagwell College prepared more new teachers than any university in Georgia.

"We look forward to using this beautiful building to further impact the lives of students, faculty, staff and the community beyond the college itself through collaboration with P-12 education stakeholders who promote the successful professional preparation of effective P-12 practitioners," Eaton said.

## Kennesaw State honored for excellence in diversity and inclusion

By Sabbaye McGriff  
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Kennesaw State University has been selected as a recipient of the 2015 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education.

As a recipient of the only national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate "an outstanding commitment to diversity

and inclusion," Kennesaw State will be featured along with 91 other recipients in the magazine's November 2015 issue.

"Kennesaw State has been working hard at diversity and inclusion initiatives for many years, and now it's nice to be recognized for innovative programs and services and for the University's commitment to becoming a national model of diversity and inclusion for metropolitan comprehensive universities," said Erik Malewski, Kennesaw State's chief diversity officer.

An assessment of Kennesaw State's

campuses in Kennesaw and Marietta during 2014 and 2015—the first of its kind on either campus—revealed that a large majority of students, faculty and staff on both campuses felt positive about the University's overall climate. For example, 83 percent of those surveyed at the Kennesaw campus, and 75 percent of those at the Marietta campus, said they were "comfortable or very comfortable" with the overall climate.

Malewski said the use of the climate assessment to drive department- and office-level action planning is among

several factors contributing to Kennesaw State's innovation in diversity and inclusion. He noted the addition of six new diversity fellows positions for faculty who will conduct research and develop programs that ensure faculty, staff and student inclusion and support.

Kennesaw State was cited for its approach to diversity and inclusion, which positions those institutional goals as a function of "offering a premier, personalized educational experience for leadership and engagement within a diverse nation and world."

## Kennesaw State president honored for leadership



David Caselli

Kennesaw State President Daniel S. Papp receives an award as one of Atlanta's 50 "Most Admired CEOs" during an Atlanta Business Chronicle ceremony in August.

The Cobb Chamber has named Daniel S. Papp, president of Kennesaw State University, as its 2017 Chairman of the Board.

Papp will succeed 2016 Chairman Terry DeWitt of First Landmark Bank, and 2015 Chairwoman Kim Menefee of WellStar Health System, in the post.

"I am deeply honored to be named chair-elect of the Cobb Chamber, which has been one of the engines behind much of what makes Cobb County so great," Papp said.

Papp will take over the Chairman position beginning on January 2017.

In August, the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* named Papp one of Atlanta's 50 "Most Admired CEOs" during a breakfast at the Grand Hyatt Atlanta. It was the second straight year that Papp has made the list.

Papp was among five winners in the education category, which also included the presidents of Georgia State, Georgia Tech and Morehouse College, and the superintendent of Atlanta Public Schools.

The publication recognized executives who are established leaders with a strong record of innovation in their fields, outstanding financial performance, a commitment to quality, a strong vision and a commitment to diversity.

Since taking the helm at Kennesaw State in 2006, Papp has implemented and overseen many significant milestones as the institution continues its rise in national prominence. The University has just completed a consolidation with Southern Polytechnic State University, which has resulted in an enrollment of more than 33,000 students from 130 countries and a ranking among the nation's 50-largest public institutions.

In 2013, the University System of Georgia Board of Regents designated Kennesaw State a "comprehensive university," emphasizing the University's increase in research, graduate programs and global engagement. The University offers more than 150 undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees. Under Papp's leadership, the University graduated its first doctoral student in 2010 and now offers 12 doctoral degrees.

### ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS EARN NATIONAL REACCREDITATION

Kennesaw State University's Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering and Engineering Technology again received reaccreditation of its six engineering technology degree programs from the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET, the accrediting body for college and university undergraduate and graduate degree programs in applied science, computing, engineering and engineering technology.

Kennesaw State's six reaccredited engineering technology programs include civil engineering technology, computer engineering technology, electrical

engineering technology, industrial engineering technology, mechanical engineering technology and telecommunications engineering technology.

To earn this reaccreditation, the College had to undergo ABET's rigorous review process during the 2014-15 academic year. As part of the evaluation, the commission used detailed criteria to analyze everything from student performance and outcomes, to curriculum requirements and program educational objectives, to faculty competency and facilities.



Robert Anthony Stalcup

Kennesaw State players celebrate with students after their 58-7 victory over Edward Waters College on Sept. 12.



Robert Anthony Stalcup

Quarterback Trey White celebrates a touchdown during KSU's game against Edward Waters College.



Robert Anthony Stalcup

Running back Darnell Holland finds the open field during Kennesaw State's home opener.

And on this historic first day of football, the action on the field was all Kennesaw State, all the time.

"Early on, everybody could tell the effort was pretty good. The guys were just playing hard, flying around, having a good time, enjoying the atmosphere," Bohannon said. "When they came on the field, they fed on that energy the fans brought into the game – they added to it and made it even better."

The opening home game came a week after the Owls made their on-field debut with a victory at East Tennessee State University on Sept. 3.

Fresh off that 56-16 win, the Kennesaw State players celebrated with the more than 500 Owls football fans who had made the trip to Johnson City, Tenn., to see history in the making.

"It's been a long time coming," said KSU head coach Brian Bohannon of the first game and the win. "The work these kids have put in and this staff has put in over the last two and a half years for me and some others and for them to come out and have a positive night that we can build on – hugging each one of them after the game – that's what it's about."

The game was a culmination of years of preparation, which began in early 2013 when the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved a football program for Kennesaw State. Since then, Bohannon and his coaching staff have been preparing the young players with multiple practices and intra-squad scrimmages. But nothing compared with the real thing, which gave the Owls the opportunity to see another young team in action.



Robert Anthony Stalcup

David Connell, president and CEO of The Cobb Chamber, speaks during the "Tailgate with the Team" event at Fifth Third Bank Stadium

## Business community cheers on KSU football

By Tiffany Capuano  
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Football fever was in the air as Cobb County's business community gathered at Fifth Third Bank Stadium to show their team spirit for the kickoff of Kennesaw State's newest sport. The much-anticipated inaugural football season began Sept. 3.

More than 300 business leaders turned out Aug. 20 for the Cobb Chamber's Business AfterHours event, "Tailgate with the Team."

"This is a great community that is fired up and excited for football," said David Connell, president and CEO of the Cobb Chamber. "When you see this much excitement, you have to look to its leader and the one responsible for bringing it all about. President Dan Papp, since his tenure began in 2006, has taken the university to a whole new level."

The growth of Kennesaw State has been explosive in the past decade, with more than 33,000 students enrolled for Fall 2015. Kennesaw State is now one of the 50 largest public universities in the U.S.

"We had 1,014 students when the University first opened. We have more faculty now than we had students then," said Papp. "But it has all been possible because of the tremendous support from Cobb and our surrounding counties."

Football has been a long time coming at KSU, from the transition to NCAA Division I to construction of the stadium to the support from the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and Kennesaw State students.

According to Papp, tailgating will be a big part of the football culture at Kennesaw State, with more than 88-acres available at the KSU Sports and Entertainment Park, providing a place for business leaders, students and the community to come together to show support for the football team at each home game.

"We can't do anything great without a supportive community behind us," said Vaughn Williams, Kennesaw State's Athletic Director. "It will be another day in history when we take that field."

## Kennesaw State preserves heritage with Marietta Campus streets

Kennesaw State University has named six streets on its Marietta Campus in honor of individuals who made significant contributions to the former Southern Polytechnic State University.

The Marietta City Council approved a Kennesaw State plan to name the streets — Rossbacher Way, Cheshier Way, Arnston Drive, Walter Kelly Road, Koger Drive and Clair Harris Road. The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved the plan in August.

The street names honor former SPSU presidents Lisa Rossbacher (1998-2014), Stephen R. Cheshier (1980-1997)

and Interim President Ron Koger (July 2014 – January 2015); Clarence Arnston, for whom the now-demolished MET Building Complex was named; Walter Kelly, a major contributor to SPSU's early success, for whom the Walter J. Kelly Memorial baseball field is named; and Clair Harris, whose contributions helped start SPSU's textile program.

"Renaming these streets is a powerful symbol of the combined heritage of two remarkable institutions, each with a history worthy of preservation," said Daniel S. Papp, Kennesaw State president. "The new street

names also reflect a broader effort to improve navigation on the Marietta campus by eliminating confusing names and making sure every street is identifiable by name. This is a wonderful way to accomplish that goal while simultaneously honoring people who have made outstanding contributions."

The City Council also approved the renaming of five additional streets on the Marietta Campus, which was a part of the University's plan to name all streets and simplify the street naming system on the campus.

## School of Communication & Media designated at Kennesaw State

By **Sabbaye McGriff**  
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The former Department of Communication at Kennesaw State University has been renamed the School of Communication & Media to better position the 25-year-old program to serve students and pursue national accreditation.

More than 1,500 students are enrolled in the School's two undergraduate majors in communication and public relations, the master's program in

integrated global communication and an online graduate certificate in digital and social media. Communication ranks among the University's top three academic programs in enrollment.

To meet the demands of growth, the School of Communication & Media will seek external funding and other resources. It also will pursue national accreditation through the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, a credential held by only two other state institutions — University of Georgia and Savannah State University.

"It is exciting to look ahead to what a School of Communication & Media can accomplish," said Robin Dorff, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, which houses the new School. "We look forward to creating a program of national significance as we foster an environment that supports innovative teaching, research and faculty development."

In the transition to the new school structure, administrators and faculty members anticipate changes and enhancements to the program.

## KSU Foundation recognizes outstanding faculty and staff

By **Jennifer Hafer**  
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The Kennesaw State University Foundation awarded more than \$134,000 to outstanding faculty and staff across both campuses of the university in an Aug. 13 ceremony.

The foundation awarded \$111,500 in funds recognizing faculty excellence in research, teaching and professional service.

The top faculty award, the university's "Distinguished Professor," was given to **John Salerno**, the Neel Distinguished Professor of Biotechnology.

**Randy Shelton**, assistant vice president of Auxiliary Operations, was recognized as the administrator of the year, while **Kristi Day**, business manager for the university advancement department, was named staff employee of the year.

For the first time this year, outstanding part-time faculty were recognized with awards. Recipients included: **Deborah Hutchinson**, College of the Arts; **Nicholas Papeacos**, College of Architecture and Construction Management; **Elizabeth Johnson**, Bagwell College of Education; **Raymundo "Ray" Marquez**, Coles College of Business; **Regina Bradley**, College of Humanities and Social Sciences; **Martha Manly**, College of Science and Mathematics; **Charles Duvall**, Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering and Engineering Technology; and **Larry A.D. Byrnes**, University College.

Professor of Music **Laurence Sherr** received the first KSU Foundation Madhuri and Jagdish N. Sheth Distinguished Faculty Award for International Achievement.

The final new faculty award, the KSU Foundation Diversity Advocate Award, and \$5,000 went to Associate Professor of Spanish **Ernesto Silva**.

New faculty were also recognized with early career



The Kennesaw State University Foundation honored outstanding members of the faculty and staff during a ceremony in August.

awards. Recipients included: **Scott J. Nowak**, molecular and cellular biology; **Andrew Whitehead**, history and philosophy; **Jennifer McMahan-Howard**, sociology and criminal justice; **Jennifer Louten**, molecular and cellular biology; and **Jidong Yang**, civil and construction engineering.

Other faculty awards included: KSU Foundation Outstanding Community Engagement Award, **Linda Hightower**, professor of visual arts; KSU Foundation Outstanding Professional Service Award, **Barbara Blake**, professor of nursing; KSU Foundation Distinguished Research Award in Artistic and Creative Pursuits, **Ming Chen**, professor of theatre and performance studies; KSU Foundation Distinguished

Research Award in Humanities and Social Sciences, **Volker Franke**, professor of conflict management; and KSU Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award, **Ana-Maria Croicu**, associate professor of mathematics.

Other distinguished staff support awards included: **Alda Wood**, academic division; **Megan MacDonald**, academic division; **Zelda Ray**, administrative division; **Patsy Bowen**, campus services division; and **Debbie Smith**, campus services division.

Staff Senate scholarship awards went to **Tarrica Wiley**, administrative associate II, physics department, Marietta Campus; and **Helene Davis**, administrative assistant IV, enrollment services, student financial aid, Kennesaw Campus.

## Professor Jeff Stepakoff to lead new Georgia Film Academy

University System of Georgia (USG) Chancellor Hank Huckaby and Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) Commissioner Gretchen Corbin announced the appointment of Jeffrey Stepakoff as the executive director of the Georgia Film Academy.

The concept and rationale for the Georgia Film Academy was identified through Governor Nathan Deal's High Demand Career Initiative (HDCI) which was launched in January 2014 by Deal and led by Commissioner Chris Carr and the Georgia Department of

Economic Development (GDEcD) to address Georgia's important workforce needs. The HDCI focuses on the future needs of strategic industries in Georgia, including film, television and interactive entertainment.

Stepakoff most recently served as co-executive producer of *Chasing Life* for the ABC Family television network. He is also a tenured professor of film and television writing at Kennesaw State University.

As the founding director of the Georgia Film Academy, Stepakoff will

lead efforts to coordinate programs, curriculum and special learning experiences for students enrolled in the state's university and technical college systems. The academy will be a virtual institution with the ability to operate where needs and opportunities exist across the state.

Stepakoff has an extensive background in the film and television industry. He has 28 years of experience in writing, producing and content creation. Some of his television work includes: *The Wonder Years*, *Sisters*, *Flipper*, *Major*

*Dad*, *Beauty & the Beast* and *Dawson's Creek*, which he co-executive produced. He has also developed pilots for major studios and networks, such as 20th Century Fox, Paramount, FOX and ABC, working with producers and production companies such as Alloy Entertainment (*Gossip Girl*, *The Vampire Diaries*), Michael Pillar (*Star Trek: Voyager*, *Deep Space Nine*) and David Milch (*Deadwood*, *NYPD Blue*). His major motion picture work includes Disney's *Brother Bear*, *Tarzan* and EM Entertainment's *Lapitch*.

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